

## CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

5 1. A method of transferring data from a handheld device comprising the steps of:

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a) forwarding information to an exchange manager, said information having associated therewith a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) string containing an identified transport mechanism for communicating said information and also a destination for said information, said step a) performed by an application resident on said handheld device;

b) in response to said identified transport mechanism of said URL, said exchange manager referencing an exchange library associated with said identified transport mechanism from a plurality of exchange libraries, wherein said exchange library defines a communication protocol for said identified communication mechanism and wherein said exchange manager supports a plurality of communication protocols; and

c) communicating said information to a system external to said handheld device using said communication protocol, said step c) performed by said identified communication mechanism.

2. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said handheld device is a palmtop computer system comprising: a processor coupled to a bus; a memory unit

coupled to said bus; a screen coupled to said bus; and a plurality of communication mechanisms.

3. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said plurality of communication protocols comprise: an Internet protocol; an email protocol; an infrared beaming protocol; and a radio frequency protocol.

4. A method as described in Claim 3 wherein said plurality of communication protocols further comprise a synchronization protocol.

5. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said information is a data file.

6. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said information is an application program.

7. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said step a) comprises the steps of:

a1) provided said application does not define said identified transport mechanism, obtaining a URL definition of said identified transport mechanism from a user; and

a2) provided said application does not define said destination, obtaining a URL definition of said destination from said user.

8. A system for transferring data from a handheld device comprising:

a) an application resident on said handheld device, said application for forwarding information to an exchange manager, said information having associated therewith a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) string containing an identified transport mechanism for communicating said information and also a destination for said information;

b) in response to said identified transport mechanism of said URL, said exchange manager for referencing an exchange library associated with said identified transport mechanism from a plurality of exchange libraries, wherein said exchange library defines a communication protocol for said identified communication mechanism and wherein said exchange manager supports a plurality of communication protocols and comprises a plurality of exchange libraries; and

c) said identified communication mechanism for communicating said information to a system external to said handheld device using said communication protocol.

9. A system as described in Claim 8 wherein said handheld device is a palmtop computer system comprising: a processor coupled to a bus; a memory unit coupled to said bus; a screen coupled to said bus; and a plurality of communication mechanisms.

10. A system as described in Claim 8 wherein said plurality of communication protocols comprise: an Internet protocol; an email protocol; an infrared beaming protocol; and a radio frequency protocol.

5 11. A system as described in Claim 10 wherein said plurality of communication protocols further comprise a synchronization protocol.

12. A system as described in Claim 8 wherein said information is a data file.

10 13. A system as described in Claim 8 wherein said information is an application program.

14. A system as described in Claim 8 wherein said exchange manager is also for obtaining a URL definition of said identified transport mechanism from a user provided said application does not define said identified transport mechanism; and  
15 wherein said exchange manager is also for obtaining a URL definition of said destination from said user provided said application does not define said destination.

15. A method of receiving data by a handheld device comprising the steps of:  
20 a) receiving a file of information over the Internet from a source external to said handheld device and based on a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) string associated with said file, said file having associated therewith a data type, said step a) performed by said handheld device;

b) in response to said file being received, an exchange manager identifying an application for said file based on said data type of said file and an application registry;

c) storing said file in memory and associating said file with a dataset associated with said application.

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16. A method as described in Claim 15 wherein said handheld device is a palmtop computer system comprising: a processor coupled to a bus; a memory unit coupled to said bus; a screen coupled to said bus; and a plurality of communication mechanisms.

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17. A method as described in Claim 15 wherein said exchange manager supports a plurality of communication protocols comprising: an Internet protocol; a file transfer protocol; and an email protocol.

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18. A method as described in Claim 17 wherein said plurality of communication protocols further comprise a synchronization protocol.

19. A method as described in Claim 15 wherein said file is a data file.

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20. A method as described in Claim 15 wherein said file is an application program.

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